

Remarks

Claims 20-25, 28, 31, 32 and 36-41 are pending in the application.

In the Final Office Action dated September 20, 2004, the following objections and grounds for rejection were stated:

- The disclosure set forth in the second full paragraph of page 12 was objected to under 35 U.S.C §112.
- Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.
- Claims 37, 38, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over United States Patent No. 5,843,117 (Alt et al.).
- Claims 20-25, 28, 31, 32 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over United States Patent No. 6,080,191 (Summers) in view of Alt et al.

By the foregoing amendment, the second full paragraph of page 12 has been amended to overcome the stated objection under 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been added by this amendment and no new issues are raised that would preclude entry of this amendment on an after final basis.

Also, by the foregoing amendment, the words independent claim 37 has been amended to remove the words "through a smooth rounded edge," thereby elimination the basis for the rejection of dependent claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Correspondingly, dependent claim 41 has been amended to recite that "at least one of said top and the bottom sides joins at least one of said left and right sides through a smooth rounded edge." No new matter has been added by way of these amendments and no new issues are raised that would preclude entry of this amendment on an after final basis.

Also, enclosed herewith is the DECLARATION OF MATTHEW J. BIRDSALL PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 establishing that the claimed invention was conceived of and actually reduced to practice prior to the February 14, 1996 filing date of Alt et al. Applicant respectfully submits that, on the basis of this Rule 131 declaration, Alt et al. can no longer be

relied upon as prior art and the stated grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) must be withdrawn.

By the foregoing, all objections and grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. Entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STOUT, UXA, BUYAN & MULLINS, LLP

Date: November 22, 2004



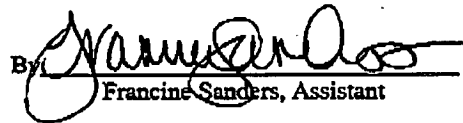
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306 on November 22, 2004.

Dated: November 22, 2004

By 
Francine Sanders, Assistant

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